



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### AUGUST WEATHER SUSTAINS STATE CROPS

**NASHVILLE, September 12, 2006** – Despite August's hot, dry start, widespread rains and cooler temperatures by month's end proved beneficial to the state's crops and pastures. According to a September 1 Yield Survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, farmer's expectations were unchanged from the August 1 forecast for most of the State's row crops, while soybeans and dark air-cured tobacco showed an improvement. The September forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 120 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 863 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last year and the second highest yield on record; **Soybeans**, 38 bushels per acre, unchanged from a year ago; and **Burley Tobacco**, 2,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from last year.

### COTTON PRODUCTION FORECAST AT RECORD LEVEL

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 1.25 million bales, surpassing the previous record set last year by 11 percent. Cotton yields are expected to average 863 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from a year ago and second only to 2004's record of 900 pounds. Producers expect to harvest 695,000 acres, up 9 percent from 2005. Temperatures during August were favorable for cotton development, and the crop received timely rains for the most part. As of September 10, over half of the crop was opening with defoliation underway in the major producing counties. The crop rated in mostly good condition.

### SOYBEAN YIELDS UP 2 BUSHEL FROM LAST MONTH

Soybean production is forecast at 41.4 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago but up 6 percent from the August forecast. Soybean yields are forecast at 38 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month and unchanged from 2005. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.09 million acres, down 10,000 acres from a year ago. Most state experienced above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation during the first half of August. By month's end, however, much of the State received beneficial rainfall and despite the continued heat, overall conditions and yield prospects improved. As of the week ending September 10, over a third of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves, about a week ahead of normal. Harvest of early maturing varieties had begun on a limited basis and the crop was rated in mostly good condition.

### CORN PRODUCTION DOWN IN 2006

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 64.8 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. Corn yields are expected to average 120 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but 10 bushels below 2005. Producers expect to harvest 540,000 acres for grain, down 9 percent from last year and the lowest since 1995. Many of the producers in the northwest corner and upper middle areas of the state are reporting better than average yields. Conversely, producers in other areas, such as southern middle Tennessee, are expecting yields only around half of what they normally average. The State's largest corn producing counties have fared generally well this year, while other counties are feeling the brunt of dry weather related problems.

(Over)

## HIGHEST BURLEY YIELD SINCE 1994

Tobacco growers are expecting burley yields to average 2,100 pounds per acre, the highest since 1994. Acreage for harvest is expected to amount to 14,000 acres, down 3,000 from 2005. As of September 1, burley production is forecast at 29.4 million pounds, the same as last month, but 14 percent below a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest level since 1927. Tobacco harvest began on schedule the first week of August and progressed at a normal pace throughout the month. About two-thirds of the crop was in the barn/curing structures on September 10. Virtually all of the burley crop has been topped. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from a year ago, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,800 pounds per acre, up 100 pound from the August forecast and 200 pounds from 2005.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,500	11,000
Corn for grain	bu.	595	540	130	120	77,350	64,800
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	635	695	848	863	1,122	1,250
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,850	1,800	2.30	2.20	4,255	3,960
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	2.0	1.7
Soybeans	bu.	1,100	1,090	38	38	41,800	41,420
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.95	20.00	2,251	2,394	51,670	47,880
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.50	5.60	3,000	3,100	16,500	17,360
Burley	lb.	17.00	14.00	2,000	2,100	34,000	29,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.45	0.40	2,600	2,800	1,170	1,120
Winter Wheat	bu.	150	190	56	61	8,400	11,590
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,864,900	9,619,700
Corn for grain	bu.	75,107	71,841	147.9	154.7	11,112,072	11,113,766
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	13,802.6	12,816.0	831	762	23,890.2	20,345.0
Hay, All	ton	61,649	62,697	2.44	2.27	150,590	142,326
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,184.55	1,053.80
Soybeans	bu.	71,361	73,935	43.3	41.8	3,086,432	3,092,970
Tobacco, All	lb.	298.08	334.15	2,171	2,224	647,278	743,098
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.84	11.25	3,178	3,303	37,631	37,158
Burley	lb.	100.15	103.70	2,031	2,166	203,383	224,580
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.15	5.10	2,778	3,076	11,530	15,690
Winter Wheat	bu.	33,794	31,108	44.4	41.2	1,499,129	1,283,134

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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